

today, they will be living in the greatest days the United States has ever know. Help us do that.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:25 p.m. at the Civic Plaza. In his remarks, he referred to Evangeline Sandoval Trujillo, director, Mathematics, Engineering, Science Association, who introduced the President; Arizona State Treasurer Michael Montoya; Arizona Secretary of State Stephanie Gonzales; former Arizona Governors Bruce King, Toney Anaya, and Jerry Apodaca; Acama Pueblo Governor Reginald Pasqual; Santodomingo Pueblo Governor Tony Tortalita; and Mayor Jim Baca.

### **Statement on Federal Election Commission Action on Campaign Finance Reform**

*February 3, 1998*

I strongly support action to end the soft money raised by both political parties. That is why last year I asked the Federal Election Commission to ban soft money, under its current legal authority. I am very pleased that the agency's General Counsel has proposed a new rule prohibiting national parties from raising soft money. Now I ask the members of the Commission to step up to their responsibility and act, within their legal authority, to end the soft money system.

### **Statement on the Accident Involving United States Aircraft in Italy**

*February 3, 1998*

I was deeply saddened to learn a short while ago that a U.S. military jet aircraft was involved in an accident in Italy that resulted in the deaths of several Italian citizens.

The plane is part of the U.S. force stationed at Aviano Air Base in Italy that is supporting the NATO SFOR mission in Bosnia. U.S. military authorities in Aviano have launched an investigation into this accident. I have expressed my condolences to Prime Minister Prodi and assured him that we will cooperate fully with the Italian Government and do everything we can to find out what happened and prevent an accident like this from happening again.

On behalf of the American people I offer my heartfelt sympathy to the families and friends of those killed and injured in this accident.

NOTE: In the statement, the President referred to Prime Minister Romano Prodi of Italy.

### **Statement on the Death of Roger Stevens**

*February 3, 1998*

Hillary and I were deeply saddened to learn of the death of our dear friend Roger Stevens. He will long be remembered as a defining force in America's cultural life.

As founding chairman of the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Roger can be credited with spotlighting our Nation's Capital as a haven for the performing arts. The Kennedy Center, one of America's finest cultural showcases, might never have been built if it weren't for Roger's dedication and energy. His love of the arts led him to produce more than 200 plays, including "West Side Story," "Bus Stop," and "Death-trap." Roger served as the first Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, and won numerous awards for his dedication to highlighting the performing arts, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom (1988), the National Medal of Arts (1988), the Kennedy Center Honors (1988), and the National Artists' Medal (1983).

Our Nation is mourning the loss of this important cultural figure. Our thoughts and prayers are with his friends and family in this sad time.

### **Message to the Congress Transmitting the Report of the Railroad Retirement Board**

*February 3, 1998*

*To the Congress of the United States:*

I transmit herewith the Annual Report of the Railroad Retirement Board for Fiscal Year 1996, pursuant to the provisions of section 7(b)(6) of the Railroad Retirement Act

and section 12(l) of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act.

**William J. Clinton**

The White House,  
February 3, 1998.

**Message to the Congress  
Transmitting the Latvia-United  
States Fisheries Agreement and  
Annex**

*February 3, 1998*

*To the Congress of the United States:*

In accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*), I transmit herewith an Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Latvia extending the Agreement of April 8, 1993, Concerning Fisheries Off the Coasts of the United States, with annex, as extended (the 1993 Agreement). The present Agreement, which was effected by an exchange of notes at Riga on February 13 and May 23, 1997, extends the 1993 Agreement to December 31, 1999.

In light of the importance of our fisheries relationship with the Republic of Latvia, I urge that the Congress give favorable consideration to this Agreement at an early date.

**William J. Clinton**

The White House,  
February 3, 1998.

**Message to the Congress  
Transmitting Budget Deferrals**

*February 3, 1998*

*To the Congress of the United States:*

In accordance with the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974, I herewith report eight new deferrals of budgetary resources, totaling \$4.8 billion.

These deferrals affect programs of the Department of State, the Social Security Administration, and International Security Assistance.

**William J. Clinton**

The White House,  
February 3, 1998.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders  
Reporting on Iraq**

*February 3, 1998*

*Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)*

Consistent with the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution (Public Law 102-1) and as part of my effort to keep the Congress fully informed, I am reporting on the status of efforts to obtain Iraq's compliance with the resolutions adopted by the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). This report covers the period from November 26, 1997, to the present.

My last report included the U.N.-Iraq stand-off which began on October 29, 1997, when the Iraqi government announced its intention to expel all U.S. personnel working in Iraq for the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM). Iraq's apparent aim was to force UNSCOM's withdrawal or to significantly restrict its ability to function effectively and independently, thereby establishing an environment under which Iraq could restore its capacity to develop weapons of mass destruction (WMD) without restriction. In November, the members of the U.N. Security Council thwarted this effort through joint diplomacy and the use of Secretary Council resolutions—backed by the deployment of forces in the Gulf. This resulted in the Iraqi government's explicit commitment, on November 20, 1997, to allow UNSCOM inspectors, including those who are U.S. citizens, to return unhindered to their duties.

In violation of that commitment and of U.N. Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 687 and subsequent resolutions, including 707, 1134, and 1137, Iraq has attempted again to dictate the composition of UNSCOM inspection teams and the terms of its compliance with Council resolutions. In addition, Iraq has persisted in its efforts to defy the Council by unilaterally imposing unacceptable conditions on the operations of UNSCOM. This report covering the last 60 days reflects the failure of the Government of Iraq to live up to its obligations under all applicable UNSC resolutions and its continued hindrance of UNSCOM's work.

In December 1997, the Iraqi government reiterated its longstanding refusal to allow any access to all so-called "Presidential" sites,